

Annual Report
Grant No. 02-DG-11052012-149
Fiscal Year 2002-2003



Prepared for
USDA - Forest Service – Region 5
Fire & Aviation Management

By

Wayne F. Ching
State Protection Forester
DLNR - Division of Forestry & Wildlife

I. State Fire Assistance Program (SFA)

- A. **Goal.** To provide protection for forest, brush, natural areas, and grassland to the extent needed to hold fire damage below the level at which it would interfere with high-level, sustained yield of products and services from these lands.

B. **Objectives.**

1. Provide fire protection coverage on 3,360,000 acres throughout the State.

a. **Prevention**

Mission. To minimize man-caused fires by improving DOFAW's prevention program via training and adoption of contemporary techniques for public education measures.

- i. Carry out the Cooperative Forest Fire Prevention Campaign, e.g. brochures, posters, signing, etc.
- ii. Participate in fire prevention activities, e.g. Smokey Bear appearances at various parades, schools, farm fair venues, etc.
- iii. Conduct a FireWise Communities workshop.
- iv. Work with the various county fire departments on statewide wildland urban interface issues.

Accomplishments

Fully attained.

- 1) Smokey made appearances statewide, visiting schools, county and career fairs. He was involved with the Federal Fire Department during Fire Prevention Week in October, visiting children at various military installations on Oahu, made several appearances on the Big Island, and participated in the Molokai Earth Day event
- 2) Worked with Maui County Fire Dept. (MFD) and the Tri-Isle RC&D regarding grant opportunities for wildland urban interface projects.
- 3) The Maui Branch Forestry Manager attended a National Prevention training session in Hood River, OR in April 2003. This culminated with a prevention education project on the island of Molokai with two U.S. Forest Service Prevention Specialists and the Maui DOFAW Fire Management staff in May 2003.

- 4) Participated in the Maui County Fair with MFD Prevention Section; participated, also, in the fire prevention demonstration program at the Kaahumanu Shopping Center during Fire Prevention Week in October, 2002.
- 5) Prevention brochures and posters continued to be given out to the public statewide.
- 6) The Oahu Branch DOFAW participated in Middle School activity fairs islandwide with the emphasis on threats to wildfire to the environment and public safety.
- 7) In collaboration with The Nature Conservancy of Hawaii, the Oahu Branch posted "Dry Area" signs at critical points in the Waianae Mountains Forest Reserves and areas with high risk, hazards, and values.
- 8) DOFAW, as part of the Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Group (BIWCG), took part in a display booth at the Jaycees Fair in Hilo in September, 2002.
- 9) Firewise informational meeting and workshops were held across the state. One-day workshops were held in Puako and Waikoloa Village on the Big Island.
- 10) Attended the Kauai Garden Fair and Kokee Banana Poka Festival to pass out brochures and Smokey Bear items. Events were attended by approximately 2,300 and 1,000 people respectively.
- 11) Participated in a panel discussion on the local Olelo cable television station. The discussion was on fire prevention and how communities can help themselves be firewise and fire-safe.

b. **Presuppression**

Mission. To improve the response and firefighting capability of the DOFAW organization and to integrate fire management as an integral part of natural resource management programs.

- i. Continue to improve and maintain the Remote Automatic Weather Stations on Kaua'i, O'ahu, Maui, and Hawai'i.
- ii. Conduct basic firefighting and specialized training statewide, based on Branch needs; collaborate with other fire agencies in the development and use of joint training opportunities.
- iii. Incorporate the Geographical Information System concept including the development and maintenance of fire maps, fire weather data, and other fire-related matters.
- iv. Participate in the Council of Western State Fire Managers, California-Nevada-Hawai'i Forest Fire Council, and the Hawai'i Fire Chiefs Association meetings.

- v. Conduct in-house statewide fire management core group meetings as needed to resolve protection issues, consolidate training, etc.
- vi. Continue to manage and use all Federal Excess Personal Property (FEPP) equipment statewide in accordance with program regulations; conduct onsite review; complete an annual physical inventory of all equipment.
- vii. Continue to integrate fire protection with other resource management programs, e.g. ecosystem management concepts.
- viii. Cooperate with the State Civil Defense, State Fire Council, and USDA Forest Service to augment fire data gathering and simulation, resource tracking and assignments, supporting technologies, etc.
- ix. Construct & maintain existing firebreak roads, trails, etc.

Accomplishments:

Fully attained.

- 1) Maintained and updated the RAWS stations on Kauai and Oahu. Four new stations were purchased and installed. Installation occurred in Waianae Kai Forest Reserve (Oahu), Molokai, Lanai Game Management Area, and Puu Anahulu (Hawaii). All stations are operable.
- 2) A series of basic and specialized training was done statewide over the course of the year. This included the Annual Refresher, S-215 Firefighting in the Wildland Urban Interface, S-330 Task Force/Strike Team Leader, S-420 ICS, and the "C" Certification Chainsaw classes. Approximately 185 personnel from various state and federal agencies took part in the training sessions.
- 3) FEPP equipment were inventoried and updated. This included the acquisition, transfer and disposition of equipment.
- 4) Statewide fire caches were updated and maintained.
- 5) Preplanned an installation of a stable pad for a 10,000-gallon collapsible tank for air operations at the Honolulu Board of Water Supply Reservoir station in Waianae Kai Forest Reserve.
- 6) Maintained 12 miles of fire break roads and access trails in various forest reserves, island of Oahu; 11.6 and 8 miles on Mauna Kea, HI and Puu Waawaa, HI respectively, and 12 miles in the Puu Ka Pele Forest Reserve on Kauai. Performed fuel hazard reduction activities in and around T&E plant enclosures on the island of Hawaii.
- 7) Fire training records were updated for all employees.

- 8) Continued to work with the U.S. Forest Service in the development of a Hawaii Fire Danger Rating System.
- 9) Conducted and attended meetings as part of the Maui and Big Island Wildfire Coordinating Groups.
- 10) The State Protection Forester attended the California/Nevada/Hawaii Forest Fire Council meeting in Reno, NV in October 2002. He made a presentation on the accomplishments of Hawaii, and the western Pacific territories as well as made a report on the Spring CNH meeting held in Kona, HI in April 2002..
- 11) Worked with R5 staff on the training schedule for Spring 2003 for Hawaii.
- 12) Attended the HI Fire Chiefs Association conference on Kauai in November 2002. The State Protection Forester updated the membership on DOFAW's fire program and what issues the agency faced over the last fiscal year.
- 13) The DOFAW Fire web site (www.state.hi.us/dlnr/dofaw/fmp) was maintained and periodically updated during this period.
- 14) The State Protection Forester attended the annual Western State Fire Managers (WSFM) meeting in Coeur d'Alene, ID in March 2003. Fire issues affecting the West and the Pacific territories were addressed at this meeting. Issue papers were written and presented to the Council of Western State Foresters in May 2003 at the Western Forestry Leadership Coalition meeting in Kona, HI. The State Protection Forester serves as the Chair of the WSFM.
- 15) The State Protection Forester attended the first national Fire Managers meeting in San Antonio, TX in January 2003. Issues of national significance were discussed and presented to the NASF Fire Committee.
- 16) DOFAW staff reviewed over 125 environmental assessments, EISs, conservation district use applications and film permits. Comments and recommendations were made to these reviews to ensure that fire issues were identified and resolved before approval is given.
- 17) DOFAW participated in the annual Makani Pahili (Hurricane) exercise, which is conducted by the State Civil Defense Agency. Various local, county, state, and federal agencies were involved in this important exercise. This exercise is a measuring stick on where the state stands in disaster preparedness.
- 18) Throughout the year, the Region 5 Fire & Aviation Management office is kept abreast of the DOFAW fire program through electronic mail, reports, and other means of telecommunication. Fire data is gathered and sent to the Region office for use in the national reporting system.
- 19) The Division hired two new protection foresters – Lance DeSilva (Maui Branch) and Jay Hatayama (Hawaii).
- 20) All four county fire departments were the recipients of the Volunteer Fire Assistance grant this year. See Section III – VFA.

c. **Suppression**

Mission. To suppress wildfires in a safe manner and at a minimum cost consistent with land and resource management objectives and fire management direction.

- 1) Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.
- 2) Respond to each wildfire incident in a timely manner with appropriate forces as mandated by the provisions of the Land Fire Protection Law (Chapter 185, Hawai'i Revised Statutes). Continue to gather statewide fire data and add to the existing database for data analysis and reporting fire history for each Branch.

Accomplishments:

Items 1-2: Fully attained.

- 1) During FY03, 21 fires were reported statewide totaling 4,002 acres. Six fires were reported on Kaua'i, (9 acs.), 11 on O'ahu (1,809 acs.), 1 on Maui (60 acs.), and 3 on Hawai'i (2,124 acs).

Other accomplishments:

- 1) In July 2002, five DOFAW personnel participated in the Eyerly Fire Complex incident in Oregon. They were part of the California Interagency Incident Management Team No. 2, led by Incident Commander Don Studebaker.